Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 31, with the following amended paragraph:

-- References such as Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual 2nd ed. (Cold Spring Harbor Press (1989); Section 9.47-9.58), Current Protocols in Molecular Biology (John Wiley & Sons (1987-1997); Section 6.3-6.4), DNA Cloning 1: Core Techniques, A Practical Approach 2nd ed. (Oxford University (1995); Section 2.10 for conditions, in particular), can be referred to for detailed information on hybridization procedures. Examples of hybridizing polynucleotides include polynucleotides having a nucleotide sequence that has at least 50% or more, preferably 70%, more preferably 80% and even more preferably 90% (for example, 95% or more, or 99%) identity with a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Such identities can be determined by the BLAST algorithm (Altschul (1990) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 87:2264-8; Karlin and Altschul (1993) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:5873-7). Examples of programs that have been developed based on this algorithm include the BLASTX program for determining the identity of amino acid sequences, and the BLAST N program for nucleotide sequences (Altschul *et al.* (1990) J. Mol. Biol. 215:403-10). These programs can be used for the sequences of the present invention (see ~~http://~~www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. for a specific example of analysis methods). Homology between the protein encoded by the mammalian Prickle gene of the present invention and D-Prickle is approximately 23% at the amino acid level.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Gene expression regulatory regions can be predicted using a program such as Neural Network (~~http://~~www.fruitfly.org/seq_tools/promoter.html; *see,* Reese *et al.*, Biocomputing: Proceedings of the 1996 Pacific Symposium, Hunter and Klein ed., World Scientific Publishing Co., Singapore, (1996)). Moreover, a program for predicting the minimum unit required for the activity of an expression regulatory region is also known,

(~~http~~://biosci.cbs.umn.edu./software/proscan/promoterscan.htm; see, Prestridge (1995) J. Mol. Biol. 249:923-932), and can be used in the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Fig. 2 shows the comparison between the R-Prickle (SEQ ID NO:1) of the present invention and D-Prickle (SEQ ID NO:3) at the amino acid sequence level.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Fig. 3 is a continuation of Fig. 2 showing the comparison between the R-Prickle (SEQ ID NO:1) of the present invention and D-Prickle (SEQ ID NO:3) at the amino acid sequence level.--